PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

| rvey #_ | PG#74 <i>F</i> | A-15 | | Building Date | 1780's, 18 | 40 ' s |
|----------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Building | Name | Partnership | | | | |
| Location | 13710 | Central Avenue | (Wild World), Mitchellville, | , Maryland | | |
| | | | | | | |

Private/Park-Recreation/Deteriorated/Unoccupied/Inaccessible

Description:

Partnership is a two-and-one-half story side-gabled brick plantation house of the eighteenth century, with Victorian renovations of the mid-nineteenth century; attached to its east gable end is a later two-story frame kitchen wing. The main block is five bays by an irregular three bays, and the brick is laid in Flemish bond with regularly-placed glazed headers. The gable roof is belcast, and there are four flush chimneys at the gable ends. Entrance is in the central bay of the main south facade, through a door with transom and sidelights. Interior follows a modified Georgian plan: central passage with alcove staircase, flanked by double parlors. The central passage is divided by a handsome arch with panelled jambs and soffit, fluted pilasters, and fine Federal-style gougework. The two-run staircase is built into the enlarged northeast corner of the passage. Parlors exhibit Greek Revival style mantels. The house stands on a high knoll in the midst of a recreational park; on the grounds is a single gravestone.

Significance:

Partnership is a multi-period brick plantation house which incorporates important architectural features from both the Federal and Greek Revival periods. Located in the heart of "The Forest" of Prince George's County, it was the seat of two important county families. The main block of the house was built by Benjamin Hall late in the eighteenth century, possibly incorporating the earlier dwelling of his grandfather. The plantation was purchased by the Berry family in 1844, and it was Thomas E. Berry who rebuilt and renovated the house with elements of the Greek Revival style. Partnership is one of only four surviving buildings of this type, period, and significance in the central section of the County. It is an important example of a composite building, and was the home of two of Prince George's County's most prominent families.

Acreage: 278.78 acres

Survey No. P.G.#74A-15

Magi No.

DOE _yes _no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

| 1. Name | (indicate pre | ferred name) | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| historic Partne | ership (prefer | red) | | |
| and/or common | Partnership, Ell | lerslie, Pleasant H | ill | |
| 2. Locati | on | | | |
| street & number | 13710 Central Av | enue (Maryland Rou | te 214) | not for publications |
| city, town Mitch | nellville | vicinity of | congressional district | 5 |
| state Maryland | d | county | Prince George's | |
| 3. Classi | fication | | | |
| district X building(s) X structure site object | vnership _ public _ private _ both bite Acquisition _ in process _ being considered not applicable | Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no | Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military | museum perk private residenc > religious scientific transportation other: |
| | ld Recreational P 710 Central Avenu | e | telephone n | 20721 |
| *************************************** | | l Descriptio | | |
| • | | George's County Co | urthouse | 1iber 5383 |
| street & number 14 | 1735 Main Street | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | folio 139 |
| | Marlboro | la Evistina | state | Maryland 20772 |
| <u> </u> | | in Existing | Historical Surv | reys |
| | rge's County Hist | oric Sites and Dist | ricts Plan | |
| date 1981 | | | federal star | te X countyloca |
| depository for survey | records Historia | c Preservation Comm | ission c/o M-N | CPPC Maryland 20772 |

7. Description

Survey No. PG#74A-15

| Condition excellent | X_deteriorated | Check one unaltered | Check one | site | • |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|--------------|---|
| good _X_ fair | ruins unexposed | _X_ attered | moved | date of move | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Partnership is a two-and-one-half-story side-gabled brick plantation house of the eighteenth century, with Victorian renovations of the mid-nineteenth century. Attached to the east gable end is a frame kitchen wing. The building stands at the top of a knoll now surrounded by a recreational park.

Exterior

The main block of Partnership is two-and-one-half stories high and side-gabled, five bays by an irregular three bays, 59 by 35 1/2 feet. Brick work on all elevations shows evidences of rebuilding. The main south facade is laid in Flemish bond with regularly-placed glazed headers. There are four flush chimneys, two at each gable end. The chimneys are all of the same height, but those of the west facade are smaller and square in plan, while those of the east facade are larger and rectangular in plan. The gable roof is belcast and covered with asphalt shingles. The extended, tapered eaves of the south and north elevations are distinguished by a boxed wood cornice with crown molding and shallow modillions; the cornices are returned at the east and west gable ends. The main block rests on a brick foun-dation capped by a course of molded brick.

The principal entrance is in the central bay of the five-bay south facade; it is sheltered by a flat-roof wooden porch with a square plan, square columns and the remnants of a simple wooden balustrade. This porch dates from the mid-twentieth century, and replaces a wider, three-bay pedimented hip-roof porch with slim Tuscan columns. The fixed, double-leaf cross-and-bible door is set within a deep surround surmounted by a plain dentilled frieze. The door is framed by sidelights over wainscot panels and a wide transom, all of which are boarded up from the outside. The first and second stories are separated by a four-course brick string course laid in Flemish bond. Above the main entry, at second story level, is a glazed, panelled door leading to the entry porch roof; in this opening hangs a nine-pane over two-panel door, surmounted by a fixed four-pane transom.

Windows on the south facade are 6/6 double hung sash with wooden sills. The first-story windows are capped with splayed, flat arches just below the string course, and are taller than those of the second story. In all four of the first-story bays, there is horizontally-laid infill masonry between the arches and the windows, evidence that the original windows were larger than those currently in place. The second-story windows have no lintels and, at their tops, meet the narrow undecorated frieze of the wooden cornice. All

of the main (south) facade, except its extreme east and west edges, retains old paint.

The west gable end is divided into three irregular bays, each defined at the first and second story level by double-hung windows of varying widths. The southmost bay has tall, narrow 4/4 window at each story, placed near the south end of the facade. Similar narrow windows are centered under the apex of the gable, and at loft level is a slightly wider and shorter 6/6 window which lights the attic. The northmost bay of the gable end is defined by tall 6/6 windows, slightly wider than those of the center and south bays. All of the windows of the west gable end have concrete or aggregate sills that are deteriorating. Each window is surmounted by a simple jack arch, laid with small bricks at the first story and taller bricks at the second. The southmost corner of the west gable end is deteriorated at third level, expos ing the attic to the elements.

The north (rear) elevation has the same symmetrical arrangement as the south, with a central door flanked by two 6/6 double hung sash windows on each side. The windows and the door are surmounted by splayed flat arches like those of the south facade. The wide, single-leaf six-panel north door has neither porch nor stoop. On the north elevation, a three-course string course forms a line of demarcation between first and second stories.

The east gable end of the main block is largely concealed by the east kitchen wing (which is inset from the south elevation of the main block). The windows in the southmost bay of this east gable end are similar to those elsewhere in the main block. The first-story window is 6/6 double hung sash, similar in size to those of the north and south elevations. Above this window at second level is a narrow 4/4 window, similar to that in the south bay of the west gable end. The loft level is lighted by a 6/6 double hung sash window, now in deteriorated condition.

Extending east from the main block is a two-story, side-gabled, frame kitchen wing, inset from the main block on the south and flush on the north. This wing postdates the main block of the house, and apparently was built to replace the smaller (detached) brick kitchen of the late eighteenth century. The wing is three bays by two, and covered with plain horizontal board siding. The south and north facades of the wing are identical: a central entry flanked by a single 6/6 window (now boarded up). The panelled Greek Revival style doors of the north and south elevations are slightly recessed; each has two tall panels over two short ones, and is surmounted by a fixed, three-pane transom. The second-story win-

dows, three on each of the south and north elevations, are square six-pane sashes.

The east gable end of the wing is two bays wide. The southern bay is fenestrated only at the first-story level, with a 6/6 double-hung sash window. The north bay contains a Greek Revival style door, and a six-pane square sash window at the second story. The wing is in seriously deteriorated condition; there is a large opening in the south slope of the roof, and the south facade is partially detached from the main block.

<u>Interior</u>

The interior of Partnership follows a modified Georgian plan: central passage with alcove staircase, flanked by double parlors. The principal south entrance to the main block leads into a wide passage which extends to the north, at the end of which is a corresponding rear door. The south door consists of two joined leaves, each with three molded rectangular panes. Above it is a large transom with leaded muntins in a pattern of continuous X's; it is flanked by sidelights with the same criss-cross muntins (now boarded up) above wainscot panels. In the rear (north) opening hangs a single wide door with six molded rectangular panels. It is surmounted by a four-pane transom; there are no sidelights.

In the south section of the passage, a door in each of the east and west walls leads into one of the flanking front parlors. The passage is divided by an elliptical arch 18 feet north of the main south entrance. Beyond it a wider stairhall takes up the remaining 14-foot depth of the building; a two-run staircase is built into the northeast alcove formed by the widening of the passage. The handsome dividing arch has panelled jambs and soffit, each raised panel bordered by a narrow convex fluted molding. Wide fluted pilasters support the elliptical arch; they have fully molded capitals and bases, and are distinguished by stop-fluting in the lower third. The capitals are further decorated with meanders and gougework. The arch which springs from the capitals is highly decorated not only with fluting and ogee backband, but with fine gougework: a star pattern alternating with every five vertical gouges on the fascia.

Beyond (to the north of) the arch, the passage widens to form a staircase alcove in the northeast corner. The open-string stair rises northward along the east wall to a landing in the north-

east corner, then turns 90° and rises unsupported along the north wall to the second story. The stair has a slim turned newel and plain rectangular balusters; the balusters and fine polished rail continue eastward on the second story to form a balustrade bounding the stairwell.

Two front parlors (approximately 25 by 18 feet each) flank the central passage in the south. Each was originally warmed by a fireplace in its exterior wall. In the west parlor, the early mantel has been replaced by a modern (ca. 1930's) corbelled brick surround; a slim plaster astragal molding has been applied above the doors and windows around all four walls of this parlor. In the north wall is a double door leading from this southwest parlor into the smaller (ca. 25 by 14 foot) northwest parlor. These doors hang on hinges and open into the northwest parlor; each leaf of the door has eight rectangular panels, with moldings which are not the same as the other first-story doors. The mantel in the west wall of the northwest space has also been replaced, by a modern corbelled brick surround like that in the southwest parlor.

Early features survive in the two east parlors. In the larger southeast parlor, a fine wood Greek Revival style mantel frames the (rebuilt) firebox. It has a plain frieze and a bold Greek Revival style shelf with sharp profile (surmounted by a later plain wood upper shelf). The firebox is flanked by pilasters with sharp Greek fluting and fully molded capitals. The chimney breast projects approximately three feet into the parlor, and is defined by a vertical wooden bead; the inset space south of the chimney breast, has been made into an alcove closet. This closet space is lighted by a wide 6/6 window with panelled jambs and soffit, and a molded surround which matches those in the rest of the main block. North of the fireplace (in the space corresponding to the closet on the south), a door opens into the east wing. A massive, deeply-worn beam forms its threshhold; the door is framed by panelled jambs and soffit, and was originally an exterior door.

A door in the north wall of the southeast parlor leads into the smaller (ca. 14 feet square) northeast space. In the east wall of this small parlor is a Greek Revival style wood mantel identical to that in the southeast parlor.

Surrounds of doors and windows are typical of the late Federal style: a two-step, broken field, framed on the outside by a plain backband, cyma recta molding and astragal, and on the inside by an inner bead. Most windows have splayed jambs; in the south parlors the jambs and soffits are panelled. In the rear (north) elevations, the windows are fitted with two-part interior shutters, with one flush panel in each leaf. Doors generally have six raised

panels. Floors are of plain wide board, all running east-west.

The stair rises to a wide central passage on the second story, and the balusters and rail form a bounding balustrade around the stairwell. Trim is the same on the second story as on the first, and the second-story spaces reflect those below. In each of the two west bed chambers, a stove pipe replaces the original fire-place. Plain wood mantels frame the fireplaces in the two east bed chambers: each has plain frieze and pilasters, and the sharply-profiled Greek Revival style shelf has been cut off in each case. Panelled closets have been built outside the chimney breasts, which (as on the first story) are defined by vertical wooden beads. In several places in these second-story closets, lath can be observed; most is riven, with some circular-sawn as well. From the small northeast bed chamber, a door leads eastward down several steps into the second story of the east wing.

At the south end of the second-story passage is a glazed, panelled door (nine panes over two molded panels) with a four-pane transom. This door opened onto the balcony over the main entry porch. Immediately east of this door, four steps wind to a one-run staircase which rises northward to the attic along the east wall of the passage. The stair is open-string with slim turned newel (not the same as that of the main stair) and plain rectangular balusters.

The attic extends above the north part of the house, and the space has clearly been rebuilt. There is no ridge pole; the rafters are joined at the ridge by long wood pegs. There is clear evidence in the rafter structure that there were once three symmetrically-spaced dormers in the south plane of the roof. The brick bonding in the gable ends is Flemish, and floor boards are wide, and all visible ceiling lath is circular-sawn. (Stored in the attic space are many louvered wood shutters, doors and transoms.)

Beneath the main block of the house is a full basement, almost certainly constructed in several stages. The basement space is divided into three nearly-equal spaces in the south (beneath the front parlors and passage of the house, approximately 3/5 of the depth of the structure), and one long transverse space in the north. All foundation walls appear to be laid in English bond. Anomalies in the brickwork of the two interior walls suggest that they may have been constructed to replace an earlier post-in-ground foundation; if this is true, this late eighteenth century structure may incorporate a small, modest dwelling of nearly a century earlier. The fireplace supports in the southeast, northeast and northwest; in the southwest, there is a good deal of new material (probably in repair of a serious crack in the foundation), and the north and south interior walls are reinforced with concrete.

Survey No. PG#74A-15

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page _

Extending east from the main block and accessible from the easterly parlors is a kitchen wing which consists of two spaces and an enclosed secondary stair: kitchen and pantry on the first story, and similar spaces above. The door from the southeast parlor of the main block leads into a large pantry space with a stove pipe in its west wall. In the southwest corner of the pantry space is an enclosed winding stair to the second-story spaces of the wing; this stair is in ruinous condition and could not be examined. Narrow bead wainscoting covers the interior walls of the pantry, and covers and closes one of the doors into the kitchen to the east.

A second door leads into the easterly kitchen space. Centered in the east exterior wall of the kitchen is a large fireplace framed by a plain wood mantel. In the west wall, cupboards (which appear to be quite old) cover the original door opening cited supra-circular-sawn lath can be observed in this west wall. Wainscoting (with wider bands than that in the pantry) covers the walls below the north and south windows. There is an exterior east door north of the fireplace.

Door and window surrounds in the wing are of plain board. The second-story spaces could not be examined because of serious water damage and ruinous condition. There is no basement beneath the kitchen wing.

The house at Partnership stands on a high knoll in the midst of a recreational park, overlooking a roller coaster. It is framed by large old trees. Immediately east of the kitchen wing is an old well, now closed and capped. Approximately 50 yards southwest of the house is a gravestone, lying flush with the surface of the ground, but in good and quite legible condition. It marks the burial of Ellinor Hall, five-year-old daughter of Benjamin and Mary Hall of Charles County; the date of death is uncertain because of a break in the stone, but it appears to be 1702, and reflects the residence of the first generation of the Hall family on the Partnership tract.

Note

1. Federal Direct Tax, 1798, Collington and Western Branch Hundreds. This tax records a single-story brick kitchen 25 by 14 feet; this is the size of the present kitchen space, i.e., the easterly space of the wing. It is possible that the foundation of the original kitchen was reused to support the east part of the present wing.

| 8. 51g | nificance | Survey No. |
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| Specific da | ites 1780's, 1840's | Builder/Architect |
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PG#74A-15

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Partnership is a multi-period brick plantation house which incorporates important architectural features from both the Federal and Greek Revival periods. Located in the heart of "The Forest" of Prince George's County, it was the seat of two important County families, the Halls and the Berrys, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It is one of only four surviving buildings of this type, period, and significance in the central section of the County.

The tract known as Partnership was patented in 1680 to Nicholas Sewall and John Darnell. Early in the eighteenth century, more than 1,000 acres of Partnership were sold to Benjamin Hall of Charles County. When Benjamin Hall wrote his will in 1720, he had begun, but not finished, a new house on the Partnership plantation, while living in an older house on the same property. He devised that his plantation should be equally divided between his wife, Mary, and son, Francis.²

Francis Hall, who had inherited Partnership from his father in 1721, died in 1785. His will devised his land to his two sons, Benjamin II and Richard. Benjamin was to receive the subject property, i.e., all of Francis Hall's land except the part on which his son Richard B. Hall then lived. Francis Hall further specified in his will that this property was to be left by Benjamin Hall to his son, Henry Lowe Hall, grandson of the testator.

It was no doubt Benjamin Hall II who built the present main block of the house at Partnership, perhaps incorporating as its nucleus the original Hall family dwelling in which his grandfather had died. The form, construction, and many of the architectural details of the house, both exteri-

or and interior, are typical of high style plantation-houses of the 1790's. In 1798, at the time of the first Federal Direct Tax, the house and immediate outbuildings were assessed at \$1,800, one of the highest values in the east-central section of the County. It was reported as a two-story brick dwelling house, 55 by 36 feet, with a one-story, 25 by 14 foot brick kitchen: on the immediate grounds stood a frame meat house, 20 by 12 feet, a store house, 20 by 12 feet, and a carriage house, 20 by 16 feet. The house was owned and occupied by Benjamin Hall.

At the end of the eighteenth century, Partnership was one of only five brick mansions in central Prince George's County (Collington and Western Branch Hundreds) which was valued at \$1,500 or more. One of these, Pleasant Prospect in Woodmore (#74A-6), was new in 1798; like Partnership, it was renovated in the mid-nineteenth century. Concord in Capitol Heights (#75A-1) was constructed circa 1797; it was also renovated in the nineteenth century and is much simpler in detail, with plain interior trim. Mount Lubentia in Largo (#73-16) was not quite finished in 1798; it is the most elegant of these four Federal-style brick mansions, and retains essentially all of its original interior trim. A fifth brick dwelling, that of Benjamin Hall's brother, Richard B. Hall, was assessed with its immediate outbuildings at \$1,500; it no longer stands.

Benjamin Hall died in 1803. As his father had directed less than 20 years earlier, he devised his Partnership plantation to his son, Henry Lowe Hall; it remained the home of the younger Hall until 1817. In that year, Hall bequeathed his plantation to his nephew, Benjamin Hall Clark, and the property passed through several short-term owners until it was sold in 1844 to Thomas Berry of Oxon Hill Manor. It was his son, Thomas E. Berry, who rebuilt and renovated the old Hall dwelling with interior trim in the Greek Revival style; during the residence of Thomas E Berry, the house at Partnership achieved essentially the configuration which it has today. It was probably at this time that the original one-story brick kitchen was replaced by the present two-story frame kitchen wing.

Thomas E. Berry and his wife, Elizabeth, were descendants of one of Prince George's County's most well-known families. Zachariah Berry, grandfather of both of them, had built Concord (cf. <u>supra</u>), one of the brick mansions of the Federal period which most resembles Partnership, and one of <u>his</u> sons (father of Thomas E. Berry) had acquired the vener-

able Oxon Hill Manor, seat of the Addison family. Other members of this immediate family owned and resided at Graden and Waring's Grove. With the acquisition of the Hall house at Partnership, the Berry family became closely associated with another of the most important early plantation establishments in the County.⁸

In 1878 Thomas E. Berry was judged incompetent and unable to manage his real estate. Partnership was conveyed to his son, Norman Berry, who managed the property and resided in the house until the end of the century. During the twentieth century, Partnership was the home principally of the White and Phelps families.

Partnership was photographed in 1936, during the ownership of the Phelps family, by Historic American Buildings Survey staff; at that time the south entry was sheltered by a three-bay, hip-roof pedimented entry porch with slim Tuscan columns. In the 1950's, the Phelps family replaced this porch with the present one-bay flat-roof entry porch. 10 Also during the Phelps residence, the mantels in the two westerly parlors were replaced by corbelled brick surrounds. In the 1970's, the property around Partnership was acquired by a Wildlife Safari Park company, and a theme park was developed around the knoll on which the old house stands. During these years, the brick mansion was used only for storage of supplies and equipment, and serious deterioration began. More recently, in 1981, the property was conveyed to a Recreational Park company, and the same surrounding land has been developed with swimming pools, roller-coaster, and other amusement concessions. 11 The historic house stands on a high point of land overlooking the roller coaster, and continues to deteriorate.

The house at Partnership is an important example of a composite building: a fine eighteenth-century Federal-style brick plantation house which may incorporate an earlier small dwelling, with Greek Revival style renovations of the 1840's. It was the home during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries of two of Prince George's County's most prominent families.

Notes

¹ Patent #21:196.

Prince George's County Will #1:115; see also Prince George's County Deeds C:228, E:538, 598.

- ⁴ Federal Direct Tax, 1798, Collington and Western Branch Hundreds.
- ⁵ ibid.
- ⁶ Prince George's County Will T#1:555.
- Prince George's County Will TT#1:207; Deed JBB #3:470.
- Bowie, E.G., <u>Across the Years in Prince George's County</u>, Genealogical Publishing Company, 1975; Prince George's County Genealogical Society, <u>Stones and Bones</u>, 1984; Census for Prince George's County, 1850, 1860, 1880.
- Prince George's County Equity #1208; see also Chain of Title.
- See Historic American Buildings Survey, 1936; MD. 17-KOLB-V, also photograph in Forman, H. C., <u>Old Buildings</u>, <u>Gardens and Furniture in Tidewater</u>, <u>Maryland</u>, Tidewater Publishers, Cambridge, 1967. Wilfong, James C. Jr., "Partnership" in <u>Enquirer-Gazette</u>, 9 May 1968.
- ¹¹ See Chain of Title.
- 12 Partnership was also at times known as "Ellerslie" and "Pleasant Hill".

³ Prince George's County Will T#1:223.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #74A-15

cf. Chain of title
cf. notes, Item #8

| Tax Map 69 Parcel 3 Quadrangle scale |
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| tural Historian & Howard Berger, Architectura Historian |
| nission date May 1990 |
| telephone 301-952-3521 |
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

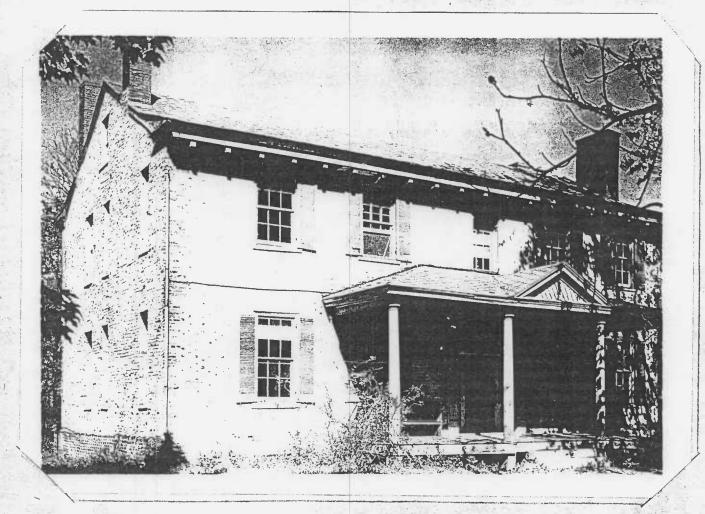
Shaw House 21 State Circle

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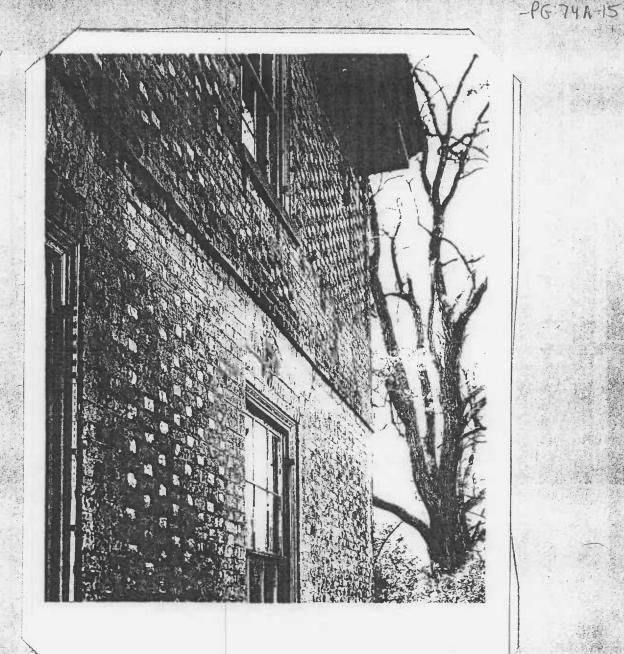
Historic American Buildings Survey John O. Brostrup, Photographer

October 12, 1936 11:40 A. M.

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST (front)

Partnership Central Ave., 1 ml. east of Kolbies Corner Maryland

HABS No. 17- KOLBIV



Historic American Buildings Survey October 12,1936

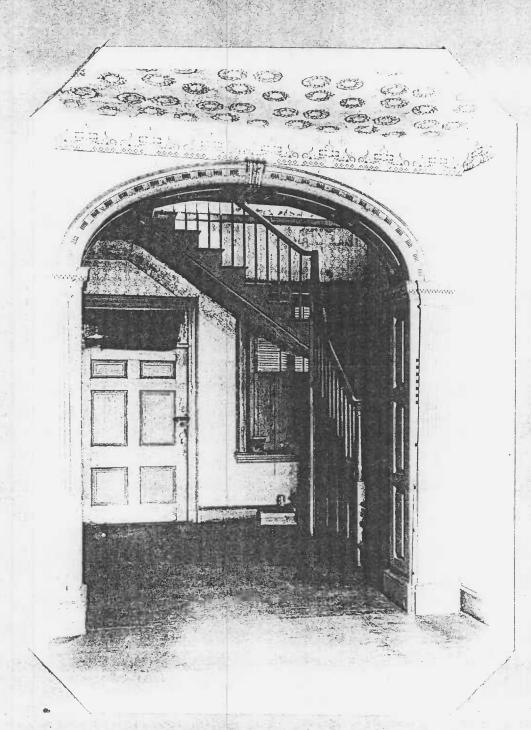
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DETAIL OF BRICKWORK, WEST END OF NORTH WALL.

HABS MD. 17- Kolb. V

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PG:744-15



Historic American Buildings Survey John O. Brostrup, Photographer

April 13, 1936 9:20 A.M.

ENTRANCE HALL (general view)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST P.G.#74A-15 (rusal somation entered 1981)

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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| DEPOSITORY SURVEY RECO | FOR | | | | |
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| | Riverdale, Md 2 | 20737 | | JIMIE | |
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CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

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__DETERIORATED . _RUINS

__UNEXPOSED

__UNALTERED $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{X}}}_{\mathsf{ALTERED}}$

- X_ORIGINAL SITE ___MOVED DATE_

76: 41-6

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Partnership is a two-story brick house, with its south (main) and north facades laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. It is five bays wide. The entrance is in the central bay, sheltered by a small flat-roofed porch. Between first and second stories is a four-course string course. The cornice is supported with console brackets, and the gable roof has kicks at the eaves. At each gable end are two interior chimneys. Parts of both south and north facades. as well as of the west gable end, show evidence of rebuilding and refenestration. The plan of the main section is a central hall with two parlors on each side. A two-story three-bay frame kitchen wing with end chimney extends from the east end of the main block.

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|--------------|---|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| PREHISTORIC | ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | COMMUNITY PLANNING . | _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | RELIGION |
| _1400-1499 | _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | CONSERVATION | _LAW | _SCIENCE |
| 1500-1599 | AGRICULTURE | ECONOMICS | LITERATURE | SCULPTURE |
| _1600-1699 | XARCHITECTURE | EDUCATION | MILITARY | SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| ҈र_1700-1799 | ART | ENGINEERING | MUSIC | THEATER |
| 1800-1899 | COMMERCE | EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | PHILOSOPHY | TRANSPORTATION |
| 1900- | COMMUNICATIONS | INDUSTRY | POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | X_OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | _INVENTION | | Local history |
| | | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1721 Benjamin Hall bequeathed his property known as Partnership to his wife and son, and described it as including a "house I am about building". This may have been the original structure of the subject house, improved or rebuilt by 1798 when it belonged to his grandson, also Benjamin Hall; at that time, as reported in the Federal Direct Tax, it was a two-story brick house, 55 by 36 feet, with a one-story kitchen. 24 by 14 feet. 2 The house has been considerably altered since 1798, with much of the rebuilding probably done during the ownership of the Thomas Berry family (1844-1891). Since that time, the house at Partnership has been the home of many different families. During the 1970's the land around it was developed into a wildlife preserve which closed after a few years. The house stands empty now, awaiting the opening of a similar new safaripark; it is being considered as the possible site of a "Country Inn" restaurant.

- 1. Will #1:115
- 2. Federal Direct Tax for P.G. Co. 1798
- 3. Deeds JBB#3:470; WAJ#3:3; JWB#20:21; Equity cases #81,#1208

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PG:74A-15

Deeds JBB#3:470; WAJ#3:3; J B#20:21 Equity #81, #1208 Will #1:115 Federal Direct Tax for P.G. Co. 1798

| CONTINUE ON S | EPARATE | SHEET | IF | NECESSARY |
|---------------|---------|-------|----|-----------|
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| CREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY | | |
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| ORM PREPARED BY | COUNTY | NDARIES |
| STATE | COUNTY | INDARIES |
| ORM PREPARED BY ME/TITLE Susan G. Pearl/M | county county argaret 7. Cook | NDARIES |
| ORM PREPARED BY Susan G. Pearl/M RGANIZATION P.G. Historical | county county argaret 7. Cook & Cultural Trust Jan 1981 | INDARIES |
| ORM PREPARED BY Susan G. Pearl/M RGANIZATION P.G. Historical REET & NUMBER | county county argaret J. Cook & Cultural Trust Jan 1981 TELEPHONE | 2011 |

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438



CHAIN OF SITLE

PARTNERSHIP

P.G.#74A-15

| 5178:328 19 Oct 1979 Deed | Leisure Attractions (ABC) to S. Fisher et al, 120.896 acres |
|---|--|
| 4770:479 9 May 1977 Deed | MNCPPC to ABC Scenic Wildlife Attractions |
| 4709:374 21 Dec 1976 Deed | ABC Scenic Wildlife Attractions (formerly Mallwar, Inc.) to MNCPPC |
| 4239:79 25 June 1973 Deed | Claude Carrick & Margaret Carrick to Mallwar, Inc. 37.736 acres |
| 4239:73 25 June 1973 Deed | Robert Arnold & Margaret Arnold to Mallwar, Inc. 26.38 acres |
| 4239:69 21 June 1973 Deed | Henry M. Witt to Mallwar, Inc. 56.776 acres |
| 2643:649 29 Nov 1961 Deed | Taylor Johnson Phelps & Margaret A. Phelps to James M. Phelps, ½ interest in 280 acres |
| 1988:213 23 Apr 1956 Deed | Jesse Lee Hall, Jr. to Carl P. Phelps et al |
| 375:242 15 Dec 1931 Deed | Mamie E. White to William P. Phelps, 280 acres |
| G <i>P</i> H#2:209 25 Jan 1921 Will | J. Newton White, testator: to Mamie E. White, all property |
| 9:357 2 Oct 1902 Deed | Samuel W. Magruder to J. Newton White, 280 acres |
| 6:396 13 Jan 1902 Deed | Edmund Lyddane to Samuel W. Magruder, 280 acres |
| | |

| 5:234 17 Oct 1901 Dee d | Annie 7. Lamb to Edmund Lyddane, 280 acres Partnership |
|---|--|
| JWB#39:318 15 Mar 1897 Deed | Caroline H. Stanley and James G. Stanley to Annie W, Lamb, 280 acres Partnership |
| JVB#37:743 11 Jan 1897 Deed | Charles H. Stanley, trustee, to Caroline H. Stanley, 280 acres of Partnership |
| J″B#20:21 29 Sept 1891 Deed | L.C. Backus assigns mortgage (JWB#6:536) to R. Irving Bowie; Bowie subsequently assigns mortgage to Caroline H. Stanley |
| J <i>V</i> B#6:536 1 Oct 1886 Mtg | Norman Berry and Caroline M. Berry to L.C. Backus, 280 acres Partnership |
| WAJ#3:3 1878 Deed | Joseph K. Roberts, Jr., trustee, to Norman Berry, 280 acres Partnership |
| #1208 1878 E quity | Thomas E. Berry declared lunatic; Joseph K. Roberts, Jr., trustee, to sell Partner-ship to Norman Berry |
| #81 1854 Equity | Thomas Berry (father of above Phomas E. Berry) declared lunatic; Phomas E. Berry appointed to be in charge of his estate |
| JBB#3:470 13 Jan 1844 Deed | John Johnson, appointed by Chancery Court to sell real estate of John Contee, to Thomas Berry |
| AB#4:131 2 Jan 1826 Deed | Henry W. Young to John Contee |
| AB#3:487 15 Jan 1825 Deed | Benjamin H. Clarke to Henry Young, 434 acres Partnership |
| AB#3:135 27 Nov 1823 Deed | . William A. Hall to Benjamin H. Clarke |
| TT#1:207 6 May 1817 Will | Henry Lowe Hall to Benjamin Hall Clarke (Jilliam A. Hall, executor) |
| JRN#16:342 11 Apr 1815 Mtg | Henry Lowe Hall to William A. Hall, property where Henry Lowe Hall lives, houwe and 300 acres |

Chain of Title, cont'd Partnership, 74A-15

| 7#1:555 2 Apr 1803 Will | Benjamin Hall of Francis, testator; to Henry Lowe Hall |
|---------------------------------|--|
| T#1:223 19 Sept 1785 Will | Francis Hall, testator; to son Benjamin Hall, all land (except part on which son Richard 3. Hall lives); then to Benjamin's son, Henry Lowe Hall |
| NN:104 28 Oct 1752 Deed | John Digges to Francis Hall |
| #1:115 29 Mar 1721 Will | Benjamin Hall, testator; to wife Mary, then to son Prancis Hall, "house I am about building" |
| É:598 26 Mar 1717 Deed | Charles Digges to Benjamin Hall, 50 acres |
| 5:538 27 June 1716 Deed | William Holloway and John Murdick to Benjamin Hall, 250 acres |
| C:228 23 Nov 1708 Deed | Richard Harrison to Benjamin Hall, 800 acres |

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

| P.G. Cou | nty Survey | ± 74A-15 | anaghandralisisphing adherdrap alleraningge | Date | (1721?), | 18th c. | , ca.1850 |
|----------|------------|-------------|--|--|--|---|---|
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| Location | Central | Avenue (Wil | dlife | Preserve |), Mitche | llville | g elleregildelig girff-dep volgt alle en erektrek-minekelige |
| Open to | Public | yes x | no | - The second sec | independent egyptil hiller telefologie a. I divelolete von sprogradische ind | Margareter of transferred scales grapping designs per design over the same the security publications. | all hand ellernoogs et stiller i deliker ellerläher videlle ellerjeler for |

Partnership is a two-story brick house, with its south (main) and north facades laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. It is five bays wide. Theentrance is in the central bay, sheltered by a small flat-roofed porch. Between first and second stories is a four-course string course. The cornice is supported with console brackets, and the gable roof has kicks at the eaves. At each gable end are two interior chimneys. Parts of both south and north facades, as well as of the west gable end, show evidence of rebuilding and refenestration. The plan of the main section is a central hall with two parlors on each side. A two-story three-bay frame kitchen wing with end chimney extends from the east end of the main block.

In 1721 Benjamin Hall bequeathed his property known as Partnership to his wife and son, and described it as including a "house I am about building". This may have been the original structure, improved or rebuilt by 1798 when it belonged to his grandson, also Benjamin Hall; at that time, as reported in the Federal Direct Tax, it was a two-story brick house, 55 by 36 feet, with a one-story kitchen, 24 by 14 feet. The house has been considerably altered since 1798, with much of the rebuilding probably done during the ownership of the Thomas Berry family (1844-1891). Since that time, the house at Partnership has been the home of many different families. During the 1970's the land around it was developed into a wildlife preserve which closed after a few years. The nouse stands empty now, awaiting the opening of a similar new safari-park; it is being considered as the possible site of a "Country Inn" restaurant.

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Priv/unocc/? use/ fair

Two Post-Revolutionaries: Ellserlie and Pleasant Prospect

The large tract of land known as "The Partnership" contained 1,500 acres surveyed in 1680 for Major Nicholas Sewall and John Darnall, and lay in Collington "Hundred" on the "easternmost fork" of the "western branch" of the Patuxent River. Today the property is known as Partnership Farm or Ellserlie (Fig. 205). The single gravestone copied off by this writer reads as follows: "Here lyeth the Body of Elinor Hall Daughter to Benj. & Mary Hall of Charles County Maryland who Departed this Life on Friday ye 17 day of July An[no]1702 Aged 5 years 9 months."

The mansion where little Elinor lived is two-storey brick, with a floor plan of two rooms on either side of a central passageway, and the broad stairway takes up a small alcove or "ell" in the passage. The best woodwork in the house is the elliptical arch on fluted Doric pilasters which divides the passageway into two parts (Fig. 206B). The jambs and soffit of the arch are panelled and have rope mouldings.

One should never date the erection of the house from a gravestone, as some writers have done. This place is, of course, not "before 1702,"—not even 1750, if the architectural evidence is read correctly. The earliest portion of the structure is what remains of the outer brick shell. Although the brick walls were at one time stuccoed over and have been extensively repaired, Flemish bond with glazed headers, and English bonding below the watertable are visible. Some of the windows have gauged or rubbed flat arches; others do not. The narrow, two-pane-wide windows in the west gable-end are curious. The reason for this may be that examination of the brickwork and fenestration of the west gable-end leads one to suspect that the whole wall is a replacement. The main or south façade originally had gauged flat arches over the windows, and is now decorated with a belt course four bricks wide (Fig. 206A). The cornice with modillions and the roof swallow-tail, or "kick" out, are modern.

The front doorway with side-lights of horizontal diamonds and transom light with vertical diamonds belongs to the early 19th century. Even though the brickwork might indicate an earlier date, the floor plan and interior woodwork give evidence of a time of construction of about 1780-90. A dairy is the only outhouse left.

Something on the same order of design and period of building is the brick, two-storey domicile, *Pleasant Prospect* (Fig. 204), ancient seat of members of the Contee, Hill, and Duckett families. Like *Ellserlie* we encounter a floor plan of two rooms on either side of a passageway, Flemish bonded brickwork, and rubbed brick arches on some of the windows. The hipped-roof wing and curtain, both of brick, are more modern.

Pleasant Prospect was probably erected by a man called "Johne Clarke," whose name still remains in the brickwork of the garden façade.





ig. 204(top). Pleasant Prospect (c. 1780-90), Prince George's County, presents Victorian gable and farmer's porch. HABS.
ig. 205(bottom). The earliest part of Partnership Farm, or Ellserlie, is what remains of the outer brick shell. Wilfong.

Form 10-445 (5/62)

1. STATE Md. COUNTY VICINITY TOWN

ORIGINAL OWNER Digges-Hill Priv dwell Phelps ORIGINAL USE

PRESENT OWNER deserted PRESENT USE

STREET NO.

WALL CONSTRUCTION brick NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY

2. NAME Partnership Farms

DATE OR PERIOD 1718 STYLE Queen Anne ARCHITECT

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

BUILDER

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

Imile no. Md. 214

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Long dirt road to house.

House quite secluded.

Flemish bond-glazed headers. No glazed headers on belt cours.

Needs some repair.

Condition of west wall indicates the existence of a wing at one time.

Eastern extention clapboard.

Outbuilding to east.

Beautiful location, nice landed estate.

House appears to have many orig. window frames and some orig woodwork.

Generally good condition tho uninhabited.

Owner in foreigh service and evidently interested in restoring House should be restored.

Estremely fine example of early 18th cent. architecture in BGC

J. C. Wilforg, JR. April 30, 1969 - C. Sarly Hall home.

3 photos HABS -

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered

Interior

Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

Color # 758,759,760,657

7. PHOTOGRAPH 9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

Bowie, 15,112,202,249,408,411. 415,249,408,414,725

Forman, old Bldgs, 1967, p 241-246, 3 photos

Rinn, Survey, p 185 We Not' - Cap. Park & Planning map 1969 # 80.

DATE OF RECORD

1701875204

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

| | COMMON: | | | | | | | |
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| 2. | 1 | | | | | | | |
| | STREET AND NUMBER: | | | | | | | |
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| | STATE | | COUNTY: | COUNTY: | | | | |
| | Maryland | | Pri | nce George's | | | | |
| 3. | CLASSIFICATION | • | | | | | | |
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| | Site Structure | Private | ☐ In Process | Unoccupied | Restricted | | | |
| | Object | ☐ Both | ☐ Being Considered | Preservation wo | rk Unrestricted | | | |
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| | PRESENT USE (Check One or M | ora sa Appropriata) | , | | | | | |
| | | | 7 Pork | Tronsportation | Comments | | | |
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| 4. | OWNER OF PROPERTY | | _ | | | | | |
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| CONDITION | ☐ Excellent | ☐ Good | Fair | Deteriorated | Ruins | Unexposed |
| | , | (Check O | 70) | | (Che | ck One) |
| | (N) Alte | red | ☐ Uncliered | ı | ☐ Moved | Original Site |

The building is a two story, brick structure with a five bay, main (south) facade laid up in Flemish bond with glazed headers. The five bay facade has a central doorway and 6/6 double hung sash. The water table is one course of diagonal profile. Over the present windows, there are jack arches of one header and one stretcher tall; below this is in-filling to the top of the window frames. The frames are narrow, with a head on the inside edge and flat mouldings of the Federal period. Between the first and second floors there is a four course string belt. The wide cornice with console brackets has an ogee crown moulding. The porch is of recent date.

The gable ends have a bell gable roof. At either end there are double flush gable chimneys, those on the east end being larger than those on the south end. Fenestration on the gable ends is irregular, with tall, narrow 4/4 double hung sash windows. Some of the older window openings are segmentally arched; the new openings on the west gable end have small, flat arches.

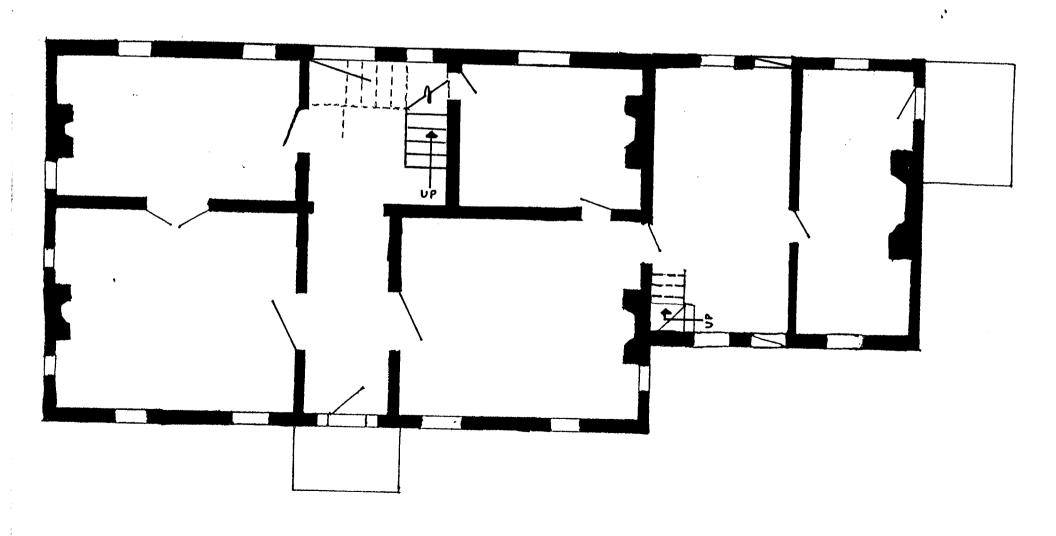
The rear facade is identical to the front except that the porch has been removed.

| PERIOD (Check One or More se A Pre-Calumbian 15th Century | 16th Century | 18th Century 19th Century | 20th Century |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | |
| SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable | and Known) | | |
| AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che | ck One or More as Approp | oriate) | |
| Abar iginal | ■ Education | ☐ Political | Urbon Planning |
| Prehistoric | Engineering | Religion/Phi- | Other (Specify) |
| Historic | ☐ Industry | losophy | · |
| , Agriculture | ☐ Invention | Science | |
| - Architecture | ■ Landscape | Sculpture | |
| ☐ Art | Architecture | Sociol/Human- | |
| Commerce | Literature | itarian | |
| Communications | ☐ Military | ☐ Theater | |
| Conservation | ☐ Music | Tronsportation | |
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PARTNERSHIP (74A-15)
MITCHELLVILLE, MARYLAND
JUNE 1990
NOT TO SCALE





CHAIN OF TITLE

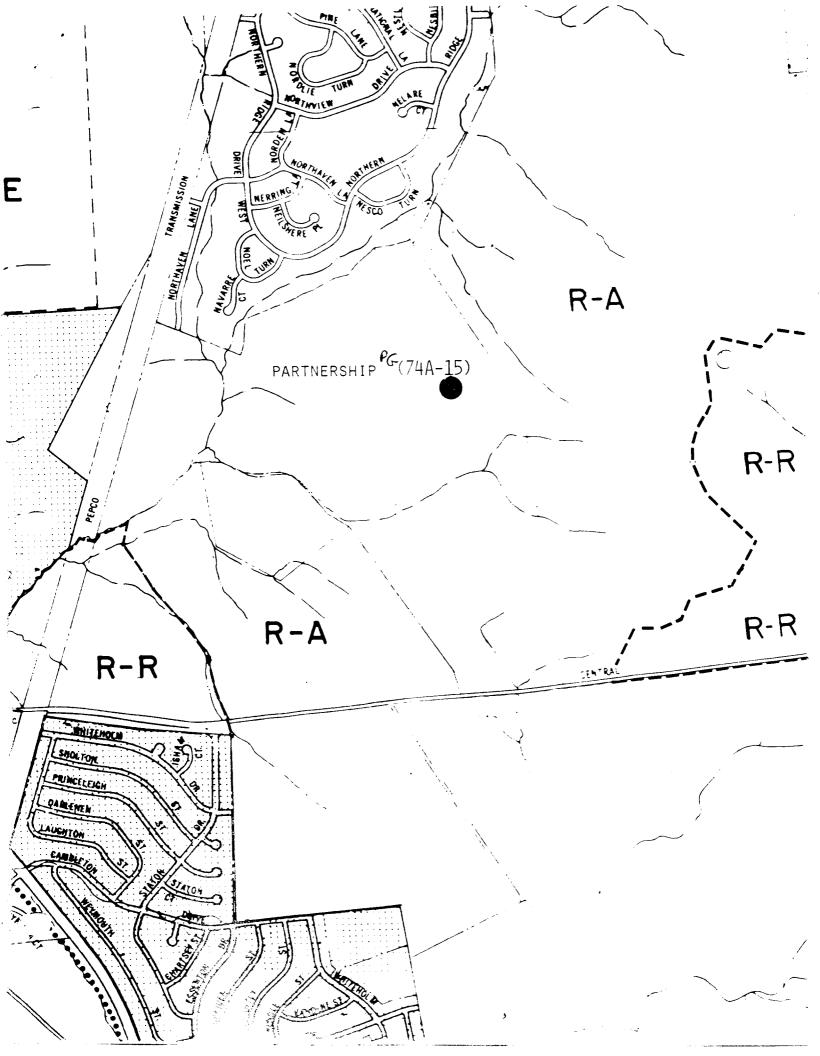
PARTNERSHIP P.G. #74A-15

| 5383:139 10 March 1981 Deed | Stuart Fisher et al to Recreational Wildlife Park Associates; two parcels of land amounting to 278.814 acres. |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 5178:328 19 Oct. 1979 Deed | Leisure Attractions (ABC) to S. Fisher et al, 120.896 acres. |
| 4770:479 9 May 1977 Deed | M-NCPPC to ABC Scenic Wildlife Attractions. |
| 4709:374 21 Dec. 1976 Deed | ABC Scenic Wildlife Attractions (formerly Mallwar, Inc.) to M-NCPPC. |
| 4239:79 25 June 1973 Deed | Claude Carrick & Margaret Carrick to Mallwar, Inc. 37.736 acres of Partnership. |
| 4239:79 25 June 1973 Deed | Robert Arnold & Margaret Arnold to Mallwar, Inc. 26.38 acres of Partnership. |
| 4239:69 21 June 1973 Deed | Henry M. Witt to Mallwar, Inc. 56.776 acres of Partnership. |
| 2643:649 29 Nov. 1961 Deed | Taylor Johnson Phelps & Margaret A. Phelps to James M. Phelps, one-half interest in 280 acres of Partnership. |
| 375:242 15 Dec. 1931 Deed | Mamie E. White to William P. Phelps, 280 acres of Partnership. |
| GPH #2:209 25 Jan. 1921 Will | J. Newton White, testator: to Mamie E. White, all real estate. |
| 9:367 2 Oct. 1902 Deed | Samuel W. Magruder to J. Newtown White, 280 acres of Partnership. |
| 6:396 13 Jan. 1902 Deed | Edmund Lyddane to Samuel W. Magruder, 280 acres of Partnership. |
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| 5:234 17 Oct. 1901 Deed | Annie W. Lamb to Edmund Lyddane, 280 acres of Partnership. |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| JWB #39:318 15 March 1897 Deed | Caroline H. Stanley and James G. Stanley to Annie W. Lamb, 280 acres of Partnership. |
| JWB #37:743 11 Jan. 1897 Deed | Charles H. Stanley, trustee, to Caroline H. Stanley, 280 acres of Partnership. |
| JWB #20:21 29 Sept 1891 Deed | L.C. Backus assigns mortgage (JWB #6:536) to R. Irving Bowie; Bowie subsequently assigns mortgage to Caroline H. Stanley. |
| JWB #6:536 1 Oct. 1886 Mortgage | Norman Berry and Caroline M. Berry to L.C. Backus, 280 acres of Partnership. |
| WAJ #3:3 8 June 1881 Deed | Joseph K. Roberts, Jr., trustee, to Norman Berry, 280 acres of Partnership. |
| #1208 1878 Equity | Thomas E. Berry declared lunatic; Joseph K. Roberts, Jr., trustee, to sell Partnership to Norman Berry. |
| #81 1854 Equity | Thomas Berry (father of Thomas E. Berry) declared lunatic; Thomas E. Berry appointed to be in charge of his estate. |
| JBB #3:420 13 Jan. 1844 Deed | John Johnson, appointed by Chancery Court to sell real estate of John Contee, to Thomas Berry all tract known as Partnership, the same land conveyed in 1826 by Young to Contee by AB #4:131. |
| AB #4:131 2 Jan. 1826 Deed | Henry W. Young to John Contee., 434 acres of Partnership. |
| AB #3:487 15 Jan. 1825 Deed | Benjamin H. Clarke to Henry Young, 434 acres of Partnership. |
| AB #3:135 27 Nov. 1823 Deed | William A. Hall to Benjamin H. Clarke, Partnership, house and 300 acres. |
| TT #1:207 6 May 1817 Will | Henry Lowe Hall, testator, to Benjamin Hall Clarke (William A. Hall, executor) all real estate, Partnership. |
| | |

| JRM #16:342 11 April 1815 Mortgage | Henry Lowe Hall to William A. Hall, property where Henry Lowe Hall lives, house and 300 acres. |
|--|---|
| T #1:555 2 April 1803 Will | Benjamin Hall of Francis, testator; to son Henry Lowe Hall, all real estate, Partnership. |
| T #1:223 19 Sept. 1785 Will | Francis Hall, testator; to son Benjamin Hall, all land (except part on which son Richard B. Hall lives); then to Benjamin's son, Henry Lowe Hall. |
| #1:115 29 March 1721 Will | Benjamin Hall, testator; to wife Mary, then to son Francis Hall, "house I am about building", all real estate to be divided equally between Mary and Francis. |
| E:598 26 March 1717 Deed | Charles Digges to Benjamin Hall, 50 acres of Partnership. |
| E:538 27 June 1716 Deed | William Holloway and John Murdick to Benjamin Hall, 250 acres of Partnership. |
| C:228 23 Nov. 1708 Deed | Richard Harrison to Benjamin Hall, 800 acres of Partnership. |



MAP 69-P.3

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PECREATIONAL WILDLIFE
PARK ASSOCIATES
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CREATIONAL WILDLIFE PARK SECTION II ASSOCIATES 5383/144 120.90 A.

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Partnership

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Door to east way, view E

Neg: MHT, Annapoly

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Partnership Prince George Country Gusan G. Pers Novemberry 1790 Kitchen Fureplace, view E Nes. M-T Arraphy



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Second Story hall, rum N
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Portnership
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23 of 28



Pormerono Prince Georges Country gugan G. Pearl January 1990 Northeast bedroom, view E Neg: MHT, Annapoly



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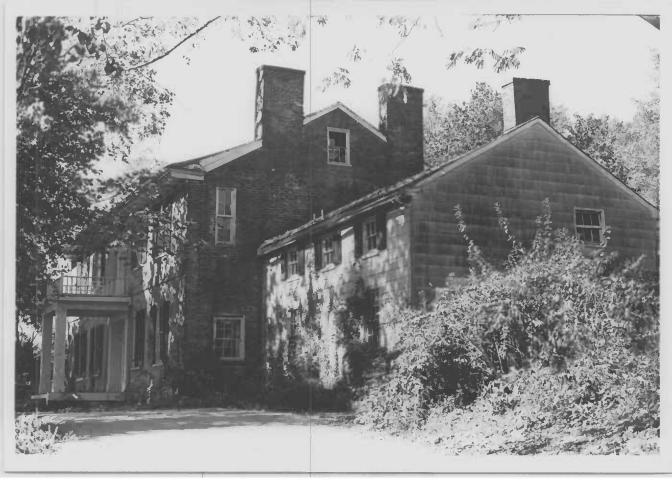
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NAME PARTNERSHIP LOCATION R+ 214, LARGO, Md.

PG.74A-15

PHOTO TAKEN 10/8/74 M DWYER



NAME PARTNERSHIP

LOCATION Rt 214, LARGO, Md.

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PHOTO TAKEN 10/8/74 M DWYER